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8. (Amended) The antibody~~x~~ or antigen binding fragment of claim 1, wherein the antibody is a 499E9 antagonist.

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7. (Amended) The antibody~~x~~ or antigen binding fragment of claim ⁴6, wherein the antigen binding fragment is a F(ab')₂, Fab, or F_v fragment.

10. (Amended) An isolated antibody, or antigen binding fragment thereof, that specifically binds to a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
- a) a substantially pure or recombinant 499E9 polypeptide exhibiting 100% sequence identity over a length of at least 12 contiguous amino acids to SEQ ID NO: 2;
 - b) a natural sequence 499E9 of SEQ ID NO:2; and
 - c) a fusion protein comprising 499E9 sequence.

¹¹
9. (New) The antibody of claim 1, wherein the antibody binds to a 499E9 polypeptide with a K_d of at least about 3 μM.

¹²
12. (New) The antibody, or antigen binding fragment of claim 1, that is conjugated to a detectable label.

¹³
13. (New) The antibody~~x~~ or antigen binding fragment of claim ¹²12, wherein the detectable label is an enzyme, a fluorescent label, or radioisotope.

¹⁴
14. (New) An isolated antibody, or antigen binding fragment thereof, that binds to a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2.

¹⁵
15. (New) An isolated antibody, or antigen binding fragment thereof, that specifically binds to a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a polypeptide that shares a biological activity with mouse 499E9 and an amino acid sequence identity of at least about 60% with SEQ ID NO:2; and
- (b) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid sequence that selectively hybridizes with SEQ ID NO:1 under wash conditions of at least 55°C and less than 150 mM salt, wherein said polypeptide shares a biological activity with mouse 499E9.

16. (New) The antibody, or antigen binding fragment of claim 15, wherein the antibody is polyclonal.

17. (New) The antibody, or antigen binding fragment of claim 15, wherein the antibody is monoclonal.

18. (New) The antibody, or antigen binding fragment of claim 15, wherein the antibody is a 499E9 antagonist.

19. (New) The antibody, or antigen binding fragment of claim 15, wherein the antigen binding fragment is a F(ab')₂, Fab, or F_v fragment.

20. (New) The antibody, or antigen binding fragment of claim 15, wherein the antibody or fragment binds to the polypeptide with a K_d of at least about 30 μM.

21. (New) The antibody, or antigen binding fragment of claim 15, wherein the antibody or fragment binds to the polypeptide with a K_d of at least about 10 μM.

22. (New) The antibody, or antigen binding fragment of claim 15, wherein the antibody or fragment binds to the polypeptide with a K_d of at least about 3 μM.

23. (New) The antibody, or antigen binding fragment of claim 15 that is conjugated to a detectable label.

24.²¹ (New) The antibody, or antigen binding fragment of claim ~~23~~²⁰, wherein the detectable label is an enzyme, a fluorescent label, or radioisotope.

25. (New) The antibody, or antigen binding fragment of claim 15, wherein the polypeptide shares the amino acid sequence identity of at least about 70% with SEQ ID NO:2.

26. (New) The antibody, or antigen binding fragment of claim 15, wherein the polypeptide shares the amino acid sequence identity of at least about 80% with SEQ ID NO:2.

27. (New) The antibody, or antigen binding fragment of claim 15, wherein the polypeptide shares the amino acid sequence identity of at least about 90% with SEQ ID NO:2.